Major Penalty Action Pending against the Officiating Vice-President (Per.) of ITDC

1034. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether major penalty action has been recommended by Vigilance Division of ITDC against its officiating Vice-President (Personnel);

(b) if so, facts of the case;

(c) whether the above case is within the knowledge of all ITDC Board Members, if so, action taken by them against the erring officials;

(d) whether the recommendation for major penalty action in the above mentioned case was submitted by ITDC Vigilance Division to its CMD more than six months back; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not taking any decision in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Vigilance Division of ITDC recommended major penalty action against the present officiating Vice-President (Personnel) for the following:—

(i) He was responsible for not initiating disciplinary action against Assistant Manager.

(ii) in 1984 when he was working as Dy. General Manager (Recruitment) he did not ascertain the qualification & date of birth of a candidate who was appointed as Assistant Manager.

(c) CMD, ITDC being the Competent Disciplinary Authority in case of officiating Vice-Presidents, the matter was not refered to the Board of Directors.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The CMD has examined the recommendation of Vigilance Division in the light of the explanation submitted by the officiating Vice-President (Personnel) and has decided to close the matter as the charges were not substantiated.

Power Project at Hirma in Orissa

1035. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) What is the estimated capacity of power Project in Hirma at Jhamuguda in Orissa;

(b) whether the project has obtained all necessary clearances; and

(c) by when the power project is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) M/s. Consolidated Electric Power Asia Ltd. (a subsidiary of Hopewell Holdings Ltd., Hong Kong) has proposed to set up initially one coal based thermal power project having 5 units of 660 MW at Village Hirma in Ib Valley region of Sambalpur district of Orissa.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) M/s. CEPA proposes to commission the project in a phased manner starting from about 3 years from the date of financial closure of the project.

Review of Power Policy

1036. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power sector is in a crisis as not more than 16,000 MW is likely to be added during the Eighth Five Year Plan and no advance action plan for the Ninth Plan has so far been taken; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to review the power policy to over come the power crisis as per the suggestion made by the national working group on power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHAMANBHAI PATEL): (a) The capacity addition target fixed for the Eighth Five Year Plan is 30537.7 MW, against which, as per the latest assessment of the Central Electricity Authority, 20729.7 MW of new generation capacity is likely to be added during this plan period. While a number of ongoing projects will be completed in the Ninth Plan, the capacity addition programme for the Ninth Plan is yet to be finalised.

(b) The suggestion made by the so-called national Working Group on Power have been duly considered. A primary reason for the shortfall in the capacity addition programme has been the inadequate availability of funds in the Government sector. To overcome it the Government has decided to associate the private sector in the development of the power sector, policy which the Government intends to continue with.

International seat capacity of Private airlines

1037. SHRI AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to allow private airlines to increase their international seat capacity to a great extent; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Private airlines have been permitted to operate only on domestic routes. There is no proposal to permit them to operate on international sectors.

Loan to Al-Kabeer by IDBI

1038. SHRI K.R. MALKANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much money IDBI has loaned to Al-Kabeer;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) a complete list of IDBI's clients?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information relating to individiual constituents cannot be divulged.

Fraud in Bank of Baroda Overseas

1039. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 7,000 million fraud was lately unearthed in the Bank of Baroda Overseas; and

(b) if so, whether a thorough probe has been caused by the Government, into the fraud, as reported in the Asian Age of June 30th 1995 and whether RBI authorities have been found involved in the fraud and what are the findings of the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) A fraud was perpetrated on some Indian Banks including Bank of Baroda by the Letap Group of Companies operating from U.K. As far as a Bank of Baroda is concerned the amount involved was Rs. 25.24 crores. After the fraud came to the banks' notice in 1991-92, they lodged a complaint with the Serious Fraud Office (S.F.O.) of U.K. who have initiated necessary investigation in the matter. Reserve Bank of India, who have looked in the matter referred to in the